

The Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Board of School Trustees called a special session to order at 7:05 am. The meeting was held at the Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation Administration Building located at 345 N. Adams Street, Knightstown, IN 46148. Those in attendance were:

**Attendance:**

- Board Members: Wade Beatty, Kevin Knott, Leah Kopp, Thomas Schaetzle
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent
- Media: None
- Patrons: 57 patrons

**I. Call to Order**

Kevin Knott called the meeting to order at 7:05 am. He noted a quorum was present. Since there were no patrons in attendance, Wade Beatty moved to recess and reconvene at 7:00 pm at Knightstown Community High School. Leah Kopp gave the second and the motion carried 4-0.

Meeting recessed at 7:10 am and set to reconvene at 7:00 pm at Knightstown Community High School.

Meeting reconvened at Knightstown Community High School at 7:00 pm

**Attendance:**

- Board Members: Wade Beatty, Steve Dalton, Mark Fort, Leah Kopp, Kevin Knott, Thomas Schaetzle, Timothy Wehr
- Central Office Staff: Gary Storie, Superintendent; Jena Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Michael McKillip, Facilities Director; Michelle Swift, Corporation Treasurer
- Attorney: Jack Hittle, Church Church Hittle & Antrim
- Media: Jeff Eakins,
- Patrons: Approximately

**II. Board Discussion on Projects**

The Board President opened the meeting for discussion on projects. Mark Fort asked about estimates included in the Board packet. The Superintendent stated he had worked with the Facilities Director, various vendors, an architect, and a construction management firm to validate the estimates. Gary Storie said the professionals stated the estimates were well within range. A listing of alternate projects will be identified if actual quotes come in under plan. There was some discussion among the Board regarding where contingency and soft costs should be taken. The Superintendent asked for direction from a majority in order to proceed. Steve Dalton suggested the contingency and soft costs be split proportionately between two facilities. Timothy Wehr asked if a timeline should be followed. The Superintendent stated because of the absence of an architect, the completion of any projects this summer would be

slim. Thomas Schaetzle asked what could be completed if the list included required less investment. The Superintendent stated that would be possible as long as alternate projects were listed. Jack Hittle, attorney then spoke to the process and limitations required. He explained the meeting tonight required the approval of a concept, not actual dollar figures. The attorney recommended the Board create a list of projects with a scope broad enough to accommodate any possible project.

Gary Storie started a power point presentation on recommended projects and Mike McKillip, Facilities Director presented estimates for KIS.

### **III. Public Comments**

- Jeff Weiland, Parent, Professional Educator & President of the Knightstown High School Building Corporation – Began by stating the money can only be spent at Knightstown Intermediate School or Knightstown High School. He also stated the money becoming available from the refunding of bonds has been sitting in an account that has been losing approximately \$25,000 per year in interest alone. He also stated his belief of the importance of committing to a three tier system and maintain the Intermediate building. He stated “it is more important for my kids to get their education and grades straight than to build a new football field.” He explained a three tier system was a separation of grades in three levels. Building housing grades K-4; 5-8; & 9-12.
- Marissa Groce, Parent – She has three children attending Kennard Elementary. She asked if consideration had been given to moving students to the high school and spending the money to make that happen. She is concerned that if \$1.1 million were spent at the Intermediate School, it would not bode well for Kennard Elementary. Kevin Knott explained the reasons for going through this process and why the Board collectively felt it necessary to capture these dollars. He also stated legitimate differences of opinion on how to spend the dollars. He then stated, he believed the board’s decision last evening to be a fair and equitable distribution of funds. “I feel a deep passion to educate our students more than provide athletic fields.” He then stated his preference would be to use the funds to build academic resources and retain the academic concepts currently in place. Mark Fort then stated there were three on the Board who voted last night to honor the promise and look at other options. Steve Dalton concurred with Mark Fort and felt the Board was obligated to a study. He then apologized to the public for breaking a promise. Kevin Knott explained the three negative votes last evening desired to spend the majority of funds on athletic fields, he felt the majority should be spent on education.
- Tina Stamm, Parent – Stated Mike McKillip stated the renovations would last 10-15 years, after that more money would be required and asked where those funds would come from. She felt the funds should be spent at the high school as facilities would eventually be needed.
- Kathy Taylor, Parent – Stated she agreed with the decision, “we need to focus on education”. She said sports are good – but academics are better.
- Ann Marie Weiland, Parent – Said she does see the need for sports facilities. However, she is upset the most by the type of facility proposed. She does not believe a facility of that caliber is necessary. She asked if the Board had studied other facilities such as the new facility at Lapel High School. Steve Dalton said he had looked at a company located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Of the facilities they built, 90% were turf. He stated a turf field had a lifespan of 15 years.
- Judy Dunsmore, Knightstown Intermediate Teacher – She began by stating the Board, as a whole, needed to decide what their focus was. If athletics, fine – but a decision needed to be made. She express to the Board the Corporation would not have athletics unless our students make the grades. She also stated instead of backbiting and being snide the Board should come

together as a group and decide what is best for not only your children but their children.”  
(audience)

- Gerald Leonard, Former School Board Member – The board has chosen to take \$1.1 million to KIS and \$900,000 on athletics. If it is not spent at KIS, I understand the money can be spent on the other projects? Jack Hittle gave an affirmative response. Once an architect is acquired, the Board will have the option to move within the two facilities as long as it is within the scope of projects. Gerald Leonard stated, since the vote was close, what would happen if one board member changed sides? Do we short-side KIS because the majority swayed to the other side? The attorney stated that could happen. These members are elected officials, and the vote to fulfill a bid is a separate vote.
- Jeff Jones, Parent at Kennard Elementary – Expressed he is very proud of his kids, and he has a big interest in keeping Kennard open, however he also appreciates KIS. Both have served his children well. He reminded the Board they would look at all schools. Kevin Knott affirmed all schools would be looked at. He, however, could not see spending all funding on athletics. He sensed needs in academics and facilities that should be met. Jeff Jones stated he wanted to feel secure that all schools will be looked at. I’m here for the promise that was made to us. Wade Beatty informed him the timing on this point is critical. The Board either moves forward or leaves it alone until the end of the Bonds. Thomas Schaetzle stated this is exactly what Strategic Planning Sessions are designed for. Jeff Jones asked for clarification, that the meeting does not necessarily make this a “done deal”. Thomas Schaetzle stated that is correct, the entire Board voted to move forward on this refunding. He then stated whether the Board agrees on how to spend the money or not, they need to continue and complete our plan.
- Tom True, Parent and Business Owner – Explained the dollars from the funding does not have anything to do with Kennard or Carthage Elementary. The money has to be spent at KIS or KHS. I believe your commitment is not on the kids. There were verbal exchanges between Tom True and Steve Dalton.
- Jamie Maxwell, Community Member – Asked if anyone, such as a Superintendent can give the Board a feel for what the future holds for smaller schools. He had heard schools the size of Tri High and CAB would be absorbed into New Castle. He thought it would “be pretty bizarre to put a bunch of fields here at KHS if you are going to be absorbed in NC.” Jack Hittle responded that many have concerns. His firm represents numerous school corporations. If such a consolidation is forced, the buildings would remain, only administration facilities would be merged. Timothy Wehr began by stating he does not speak too often, however, with the diversity of patrons present; he shared the desire of the Board is to complete the refunding and be transparent to community concerns. To leave the refunding alone will cost taxpayers approximately \$55,000 per year. “I will make a commitment that we all need to try to get along and understand what everyone wants.”
- Tom Crawford – If we are going to delay in putting money in buildings, then delay in putting money in athletics. He views this dialog to be a delay tactic. Mr. Dalton stated he had a passion, he also said if the Board was going to wait, then that philosophy should be carried out on all projects. He affirmed the decision the Board made last night was the correct one.
- Julie Snyder, Clerk-Treasurer for Town of Kennard – Asked the Board if the possibility to close Kennard Elementary would be considered again next year. She stated she would need to know that as the town had applied for a \$250,000 grant to help with education and sidewalks. The town would not be eligible if the school was closed. The Superintendent stated that is a policy decision for the Board, from his standpoint, it would be in the best interest to maintain all the buildings; provided it was financially sound to do so. He would not guarantee the subject would not be revisited in the future.

**IV. 1028 Hearing**

The School Board proceeded with a Resolution on the 1028 Hearing. Thomas Schaetzle moved to approve the resolution read from the Board President. The second came from Leah Kopp. Timothy Wehr asked about the distribution of soft costs prior to voting. Timothy Wehr moved to amend contingency and soft costs be proportionately distributed between projects. Thomas Schaetzle and Leah Kopp accepted the amendment. After a brief discussion, motion carried 5-2 with Steve Dalton and Mark Fort casting negative votes.

Jack Hittle stated a formality to approve Exhibit B was also required. There was some discussion regarding language that the lease payments be fixed. The attorney assured the Board this would be accomplished during closing of the Bonds. Thomas Schaetzle moved to approve Exhibit B with a second by Wade Beatty. Motion carried 5-2 with Steve Dalton and Mark Fort casting negative votes.

**V. Other**

The Superintendent suggested at the next meeting a Strategic Planning Session be scheduled along with a re-organization meeting. He reminded the Board the Regular Session will occur Tuesday, June 9, 2009 beginning at 7:00 pm with an Executive Session beginning at 6:00 pm. A Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2009 beginning at 1:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office.

**VI. Adjournment**

Kevin Knott moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm.

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PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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VICE PRESIDENT

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MEMBER

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SECRETARY

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